

SENATE BILL 685

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;
Title 6 and Title 7, relative to private and
nonprofit ambulance service operations within a
county or city.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-61-103, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The governing body of any county or city may license, franchise, or contract for private operators or nonprofit general welfare corporations to provide ambulance service. The governing body of any county or city may not restrict private or nonprofit non-emergency ambulance service for that county or city, except as set forth in subsection (b).

(b) In order to protect the public health and welfare, any county or city may adopt and enforce reasonable regulations to control the provision of private or nonprofit ambulance service; provided, however, the county or city may not restrict the emergency or nonemergency operation of a private or nonprofit ambulance service within the county or city to a degree greater than the county or city restricts the emergency or nonemergency operation of the county or city ambulance service, so long as the private or nonprofit ambulance service operates lawfully and in compliance with the rules and regulations of this state.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Emergency operation" means an ambulance response for immediate medical care in order to prevent loss of life or immediate aggravation of illness or injury; and

(2) "Nonemergency operation" means a preplanned or scheduled ambulance response that does not require an emergency response.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.